

[6.]

A TRUE  
**NARRATIVE**  
OF THE  
**SENTENCE**

**Titus Oats**

FOR

**PERJURY**

AT THE

**Kings-Bench-Barr**

AT

**VVESTMINSTER.**

On *Saturday* the 16th Day of this present *May*, 1685.

**T**itus Oats, being the last *Friday* and *Saturday* found Guilty of two Indictments of *Perjury* and having on *Saturday* last moved some time to Assign Errors, it was given him till this present *Saturday*, the 16th. of *May*, 1685. and this day received Sentence according to his *High Demerits*; The manner of the Proceeding was as followeth.

My *Lord Chief Justice* and other of his Brethren being on the Bench, was called; the *Attorney General* craved Judgment of the Court against *Titus Oats* for his *Perjuries*; *Oats* craved time till *Monday*, but it was denyed him, for he was told he had had an extraordinary time already, and that he had had the occasion this long time, to procure what Records he pleased; then *Oats* was asked what he had to say in Arrest of Judgment? then he produced a Paper containing two or three trifling Objections, which first were answered by the *Attorney-General*, then more at large by my *Lord Chief Justice*; one of them was, That the *Perjury* assigned was not in any Material Point; it was told him by the Court that it was in the most material, viz. to prove him at *St. Omers* on the 24th of *April*, when he said he was here at the Consult of *Treason* at the *White Horse* in the *Strand*, upon which Consult the whole Pretended Plot was hinged: Then he objected in the Paper, that no Witness in Cases of *High-Treason* ought to be Indicted of *Perjury*: He was told by my *Lord Chief Justice*, That that was excellent Doctrine, and an inducement to all Villany; for if a Man may be Indicted for forswearing himself about a Cow or a Horse, much more for the Death of a Man. Then he objected, that in the Indictment there was *Signat* for *Signano*; it was answered, that that was but trifling, and that the latter was more proper. His trifling Objections.

jections being all answered, my *Lord Chief Justice* began a most excellent Speech, telling the dangerous Consequences of Perjury, and particularly of *Oaths*, and told them how that first of all Perjury was punished by Death afterwards by Cutting out of the Tongue, and that it was Arbitrary, and so by consequence might be punished as the Court thought fit, with any punishment not extending to Death, and that it was the unanimous Opinion of all the Judges of *England*, who had been consulted in that Case, and that what the Court of *Star-Chamber* could formerly do, the *Kings-Bench* could now do, the Power being only brought back and lodged in the *Kings-Bench*, where it was formerly, as is evident by the Act, destroying the Court of *Star-Chamber*, that his was a Crime of an extraordinary nature, and therefore ought to be punished in an extraordinary manner, to deter all others for the future from attempting the like Villanies, and that it was impossible to punish him enough, considering the horrid consequences of his Villanies and Perjuries. After he had ended his Speech, he left the Sentence to be pronounced by his Brethren on the Bench. Then Judge *Widdens*, who after pronounced the Sentence, began a solid discourse of the ill tendency of his Perjuries, and the dreadful effects of it, and that now their eyes were open, and his palpable Contradictions and Perjuries made as clear as the Sun; and that not onely by *Popists*, as *Oats* most triflingly objected, but by good Protestant Evidence. After he had done his Speech, then he proceeded to give Judgment, which was as follows.

He told him he had been found Guilty of Two Indictments, so must have Judgment given upon both; the first for his Perjury relating to the 24th of April, and the other for his Perjury relating to the 2d, 9th and 12th of August, and 1st and 2d of September.

First, He was upon the first Indictment to be Fined in a thousand Marks, then his Canonical Habit to be stripp'd over his Ears, and on Monday next to stand in the Pillory at *Westminster-Hall*, and to be lead about the Hall with a Paper shewing his excellent Faculties in Swearing.

Upon the second Indictment he was to stand at the *Exchange*, betwixt the hours of twelve and one, and to be Whipt from *Aldgate* to *Newgate*. Upon Friday next to stand in the Pillory at *Tyburn*, and that the Example may yet more terrifie, he is to perform the following Anniverfaries in the following places: Every twenty fourth of April he is to stand an hour in the Pillory over against *Tyburn*, every 9th of August at *Westminster* in the *Palace-Tard*, the 10th of August at *Charing-Cross*, and at the *Temple* on the 11th. Judge *Widdens*, after he had pronounced Sentence, said he never pronounced Criminal Sentence in his Life, but he had some Compassion, but that he was such a Villain and hardned Sinner, that he could find no sentiments of compassion for him.

It was observed, that all the time of *Oats* being in the Court, he looked much more pale than he was wont, and more dejected, having lost some of his wonted Confidence. After the Sentence was past, he said nothing that was intelligible; there being presently a great Noise in the Court, then the Court bid the Officers take him away, which they did in great haste; when he was got down into the Hall, he was welcomed with very loud Salutations proper for the occasion and so all the way to the Water at *Westminster-stairs* where they took Boat for him, to convey him back to the *Kings-Bench*, where we leave him till Monday, when he will mount a Stage fit for such an Actor to play his part on; where the *Whiggs* if they please, may go and see their Saviour in, whom they so much trusted, against whom once while *Whiggs* was Trump; it was much safer to speak Treason or Blaphemy, than to whisper the least suspicion of his Veracity; the cry being then, baffling of Vores of Parliaments, ridiculing the Plot, aspersing the Justice; much good may do them with their Popish-Plot, and Inscriptions caused to be put about the *Mansion* by a Lord Mayor, after himself convicted of Perjury.

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